

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Board of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture, established under section 26-16 and specifically provided for in chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is headed by an executive board known as the Board of Agriculture. The Board consists of ten members, one from each of the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai; four at-large; and the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; the Director of Business, Economic Development and Tourism; and the Dean of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, who serve as ex officio voting members. The Chairperson and members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Chairperson serves in a full-time position with authority and powers delegated by the Board.

There are a number of technical advisory committees to provide the Board with expertise necessary in its decision making.

Office of the Chairperson

Under the general direction of the Governor and through the Board of Agriculture, the Chairperson plans, directs, and coordinates the various activities of the Department within the scope of laws and established policies and regulations.

The Department promotes the conservation, development, and utilization of agricultural resources in the State. It also assists the farmers of the State and any others engaged in agriculture by dissemination of information, a crop and livestock reporting service, market news service, and any other means of improving the well-being of those engaged in agriculture and increasing the productivity of lands, and administers the programs of the State relating to animal and plant pests and diseases, farm credit, agricultural resources development and promotion of agricultural products and markets, promotion of aquaculture, and the establishment and enforcement of rules on the grading and labeling of agricultural products.

Administrative Services Office

The Administrative Services Office provides various staff functions necessary for the direction and operation of the Department. The Department's personnel program is managed through the development and implementation of personnel policies and procedures. Fiscal management is provided through the development and implementation of sound fiscal policies and procedures, the preparation of accounting and financial reports and allotment requests, internal auditing, purchasing, and review of accounts in accordance with the prescribed state accounting system. The property management function includes the administration of the inventory management program; printing and duplicating services; and mail and messenger services. The Department's motor pool operation provides vehicle assignment, scheduled

maintenance, and repair service. Budget program planning, evaluation, and management services, cost benefit studies, and organizational analyses to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of ongoing as well as proposed programs are performed by the Budget and Management staff. The Computer Services staff manages the Department's computer resources through training, problem resolution, and the planning, development, and integration of information technology systems and procedures.

Agricultural Resource Management Division

The Agricultural Resource Management Division administers and manages the state irrigation systems to ensure an adequate supply of water for agriculture. Activities conducted include: (1) preparing plans and studies required to determine the feasibility of irrigation projects; (2) acquiring water, water sources and other property for irrigation systems, and constructing and improving the facilities required; (3) operating the irrigation systems and controlling the flow of water to maximize the supply and minimize the waste, and to assure an adequately available and equitable distribution, of the water supply; (4) maintaining the irrigation systems including tunnels, ditches, flumes, pipelines, siphons, dams, wells, reservoirs, valves, pumps, roadways, gates, bridges, and other related water facilities; (5) metering, assessing, billing, and collecting water service charges from consumers; (6) initiating and implementing capital improvement projects to improve and maintain existing irrigation system facilities and prepare necessary reports and documentation as required by statutes; and (7) cooperating with and assisting other appropriate agencies with irrigation water systems studies, acquisitions, or other related functions.

This Division also administers the development and management of agricultural park projects; prepares project budgets, rules, and procedures for agricultural parks; coordinates the development and maintenance of agricultural park projects; prepares for the disposition of public lands set aside for agricultural parks by issuing leases and permits and administering the lease conditions; and monitors and reports on the utilization of agricultural park lands.

This Division also manages the use of agriculture-related facilities such as vacuum cooling plants, slaughterhouses, and marshaling and processing facilities and issues leases for such uses.

The Division is charged with reviewing, interpreting, and making recommendations with respect to public policies and actions relating to agricultural water use. Further, it acts to conserve and protect irrigation water systems.

Agricultural Loan Division

The Agricultural Loan Division promotes agricultural and aquacultural development of the State by stimulating, facilitating, and granting loans and providing related financial services to farmers, food manufacturers, and aquaculturalists that meet program qualification requirements.

The Division encourages the development of new farmers and new crops, assists farmers with loans, encourages private lenders to make loans directly or in cooperation with the State, provides relief to farmers in times of emergencies, and assists food manufacturers with loans to stimulate usage of Hawaii-grown agricultural products. In this role, the Division directly supports the Department's mission to develop agriculture in the State.

Animal Industry Division

The Animal Industry Division assists Hawaii's livestock and poultry industries by performing a number of services to encourage their development.

The Division detects, diagnoses, controls, eradicates, and prevents livestock diseases in order to promote the health and economic well-being of livestock industries in Hawaii, and protects the public through control and eradication of animal diseases which are transmissible to humans.

The Division provides laboratory services and diagnostic support and conducts disease surveillance projects involving poultry, swine, and dairy industries.

The Division prevents the introduction of rabies through quarantine and conducts inspection of animals entering the State to ensure compliance with importation laws.

Agricultural Development Division

The Agricultural Development Division serves both consumers and agricultural producers in the State. It tries to promote a balance between what consumers want and what producers have.

The Division provides services to improve the efficiency of production and marketing of agricultural products. It collects and publishes agricultural statistical data on estimated and actual acreage planted, acreage for harvest, the value of crops, the movement of stock, and the marketing, processing, and utilization of crops, livestock, and other agricultural products. It conducts economic analyses to address marketing and transportation problems in agriculture.

The Division also assists producers, processors, and manufacturers in promoting their agricultural products in the local, national, and international markets, and in developing those markets.

Quality Assurance Division

The Quality Assurance Division is responsible for programs to improve the market quality of agricultural, horticultural, and processed commodities and to assure fair trade, honesty, and equity in the marketplace.

The Division administers programs which provide for the inspection and grading of fresh and processed foods, the enforcement of labeling requirements, the testing of feed for nutrient guarantee and adulteration, the certification of farms that use good agricultural practices, the promotion of fair trade and honesty in the marketing of agricultural products, and the prevention of agricultural theft. A laboratory conducts chemical analyses of feed adulteration, pesticide formulations, and residues in environmental samples.

The Division is responsible for maintaining stability in the dairy industry and for ensuring an adequate supply of milk for consumers by adjusting prices and production quotas for producers, and for licensing producers and distributors.

The Division is also responsible for assuring equitable transactions relating to weighing and measuring devices, package labeling, and petroleum products. It assures that state standards conform to federal standards for weights and measures, and determines length, volume, and mass standards through comparison with the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The Division periodically tests all commercial weighing and measuring devices in the State, which include gasoline pumps, taximeters, and scales. In addition, the Division administers programs for assuring the accuracy of labeling and net fill of packaged consumer commodities, verifies claims of Hawaii geographic origin or manufacture, and verifies that posted prices are actually charged by computer-assisted checkout systems.

Plant Industry Division

The programs of the Plant Industry Division are designed to protect agricultural industries and natural resources.

The Division protects Hawaii's agricultural industries and natural resources against the entry and spread of harmful insects and diseases, and provides Hawaii's export industries with inspection services designed to facilitate the export and interisland movement of certain plant materials.

The Division promotes and ensures the safe and discriminate use of pesticides to minimize adverse effects on the environment and enables agricultural industries to continue the use of pesticides.

The Division protects Hawaii's agricultural enterprises and natural resources by an integrated biological and chemical/mechanical control of insects, weeds, diseases, and snail pests which are currently established or which may enter the State and cause economic losses. It protects the State against the introduction of noxious weeds, and farmers and growers from the sale of low-quality seeds.

